

House Resolution 2217

By: Representatives Geisinger of the 48th, Lewis of the 15th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Murphy of the 23rd, Forster of the 3rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Southern States Energy Board for its consideration of undertaking a project
2 to inventory and study the possibility of exploring for natural gas in the coastal areas of
3 Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, exploration for natural gas in the State of Georgia's coastal areas is currently
5 prohibited under the federal ban on offshore gas drilling, a moratorium that has been in place
6 since 1982; and

7 WHEREAS, the rising demand for natural gas as a clean-burning fuel source coupled with
8 a limited supply of natural gas will continue to boost heating and electricity costs, affecting
9 homeowners, small business owners, and a range of major industries; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to the Elba Island Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal, one of the
11 nation's key receiving points for natural gas; and

12 WHEREAS, the provision of an increased diversity of natural gas supplies to Georgia will
13 offset part of the need for supplies from the Gulf of Mexico and will help stabilize or lower
14 the price for natural gas in Georgia, helping to create a favorable energy market for Georgia
15 consumers; and

16 WHEREAS, a favorable energy market in Georgia will aid economic development, help to
17 attract new jobs, and help to secure existing jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, the continental shelf off the coast of Georgia is about 80 miles wide with the
19 eastern boundary being marked by the Gulf Stream and is the widest in the South Atlantic
20 Bight, which extends from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast is more than 100 miles in length and has two highly developed
2 ports in Brunswick and Savannah, which is home to the largest single-terminal container
3 facility of its kind on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, in order to develop sound policies and proper development of our natural gas
5 resources, there is a need to locate and inventory the amount of natural gas in the coastal
6 areas of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, there is an additional need to investigate the possibility of exploration and
8 drilling for natural gas in the coastal areas of Georgia in the event that Congress decides to
9 remove the moratorium on offshore drilling; and

10 WHEREAS, representatives of the Southern States Energy Board have expressed the
11 possibility that it would be willing to undertake such an investigation and inventory.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body commend the Southern States Energy Board for its consideration,
14 in partnership with selected industry, of a project to conduct an offshore inventory of natural
15 gas in the coastal areas of Georgia and to investigate the possibility of exploration and
16 drilling for natural gas, and request that, if such project is undertaken, the board provide the
17 General Assembly with the results of such inventory and study and any recommended
18 legislation that will allow for the further exploration, development, and drilling for natural
19 gas in the coastal areas of Georgia.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia members of the
22 Southern States Energy Board and the Executive Director of the Southern States Energy
23 Board in Norcross, Georgia.